ATLAS
JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY
JOURNEY INTO
MYSTERY
JULY
NO. 10
10¢
AUTHORIZED A. C. M. P.
CONFORMS to the COMICS CODE
"THE ASSASSIN OF PARIS!"
"THE WRONG WORLD!"
"NOW YOU SEE IT!"
"JACK AND JILL WENT UP THE HILL!"
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ALL ABOARD, LADS AND LASSIES, FOR ANOTHER EXCITING *JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY!* NOW HEAR THIS...WHAT WOULD *YOU* DO, IF YOU WERE THE *ONLY MAN* LEFT IN THE WORLD? THAT WAS WILBUR'S PROBLEM...THE PROF HIMSELF HAD ERASED THE HUMAN RACE... AND THE QUESTION WAS... HOW TO BRING 'EM BACK ALIVE?

THE WRONG WORLD

IN RESPONSE TO NUMEROUS REQUESTS FROM OUR READERS, WE PRESENT A SEQUEL TO "THE ONLY MAN IN THE WORLD!" WHICH APPEARED IN THE PREVIOUS ISSUE OF *JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY!* WEIRD CREATURES FROM DIMENSION X HAD ENTERED OUR PLANE OF EXISTENCE! THEIR BRILLIANT SCIENTIST LEADER...ZADIXX... HAD CONSTRUCTED A TIME-STOPPING CYCLOTRON MACHINE, WHICH MADE POSSIBLE THIS INVASION OF OUR WORLD!
A SPINE-TINGLING JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY!

AND THEN, THE ONLY HUMAN BEING IMMUNE TO THE EFFECTS OF THE CYCLOTRON... PROFESSOR WILBUR THOMPSON...HAD BLOWN UP THIS POWERFUL TIME-STOPPING MACHINE, THUS UNWITTINGLY DESTROYING *TIME* ITSELF! WITH TIME BLOTTED OUT, ALL HUMANS EXCEPT THE PROFESSOR BECAME NON-EXISTENT...

I'M THE *ONLY MAN* IN THE WORLD! I MYSELF BROUGHT THIS CATASTROPHE ON THE WORLD! IF I HAD ONLY UNDERSTOOD ABOUT THE CYCLOTRON! IF I HAD ONLY KNOWN!

IN THE UNMEASURED DAYS WHICH FOLLOWED THE CATASTROPHE, ZADIXX COULD BE SEEN POURING OVER SCIENTIFIC VOLUMES IN NEW YORK'S FIFTH AVENUE LIBRARY...

THERE IS THE VILLAIN WHO MASTER-MINDED THE INVASION OF THIS WORLD... THIS DIMENSION...BY THE HORRIBLE CREATURES OF DIMENSION X!

HE NEVER STOPS READING THAT CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL ON THE ATOM, NUCLEAR FISSION, THE HYDROGEN BOMB! I FEAR ZADIXX HAS SOME EVIL INTENTION IN MIND!

AH, PROFESSOR! I'VE BEEN ABSORBING ALL THESE FACTS ABOUT HYDROGEN BOMBS AND GUIDED MISSILES! ALTHOUGH WE SPLIT THE ATOM IN OUR DIMENSION X, WE NEVER REACHED THIS DEGREE OF DEVELOPING WEAPONS OF WAR!

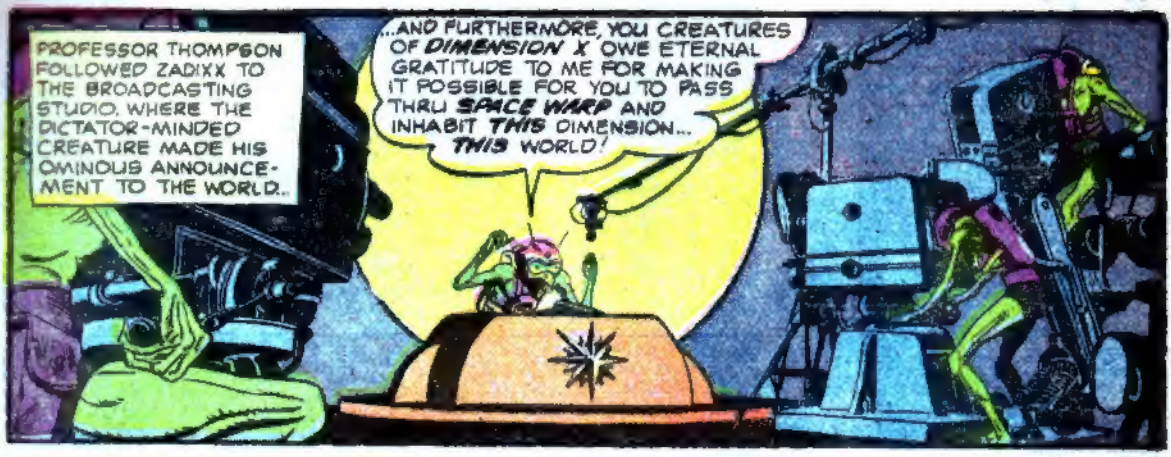
I'VE BEEN STUDYING ABOUT SPACE SHIPS, TOO! TRAVEL BETWEEN PLANETS IS A POSSIBILITY! BUT THERE MUST BE A PLATFORM OUT IN SPACE AS A REFUELING STATION...

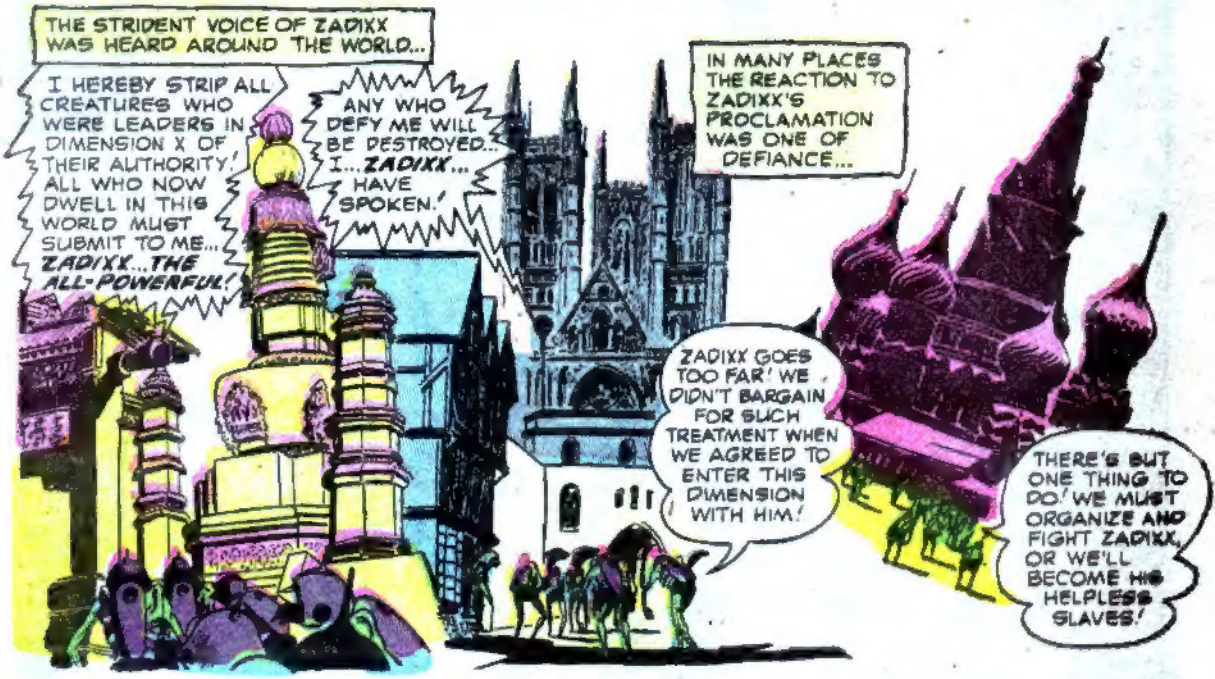
"WHOEVER CONTROLLED THE SPACE PLATFORM WOULD CONTROL THE WORLD... FOR ATOMIC GUIDED MISSILES COULD BE DIRECTED TO ANY SPOT ON THE EARTH!"

AND I AM THE ONLY CREATURE IN THE WORLD, BESIDES YOU, PROFESSOR, WHO UNDERSTANDS THE SCIENTIFIC PRINCIPLES WHICH CAN MAKE ALL THIS POSSIBLE! I SHALL DOMINATE THE WORLD... THE UNIVERSE! I SHALL BE CALLED ZADIXX, THE OMNIPOTENT!

I GO NOW, TO MAKE MY GREAT ANNOUNCEMENT TO THE WORLD!

HE'S INSANE... MAD WITH POWER... BUT HE COULD ACCOMPLISH ALL HE SAYS! HE HAS A SUPER-BRILLIANT MIND!


PROFESSOR THOMPSON FOLLOWED ZADIXX TO THE BROADCASTING STUDIO, WHERE THE DICTATOR-MINDED CREATURE MADE HIS OMINOUS ANNOUNCEMENT TO THE WORLD..
...AND FURTHERMORE, YOU CREATURES OF DIMENSION X OWE ETERNAL GRATITUDE TO ME FOR MAKING IT POSSIBLE FOR YOU TO PASS THRU SPACE WARP AND INHABIT THIS DIMENSION... THIS WORLD!


THE STRIDENT VOICE OF ZADIXX WAS HEARD AROUND THE WORLD...
I HEREBY STRIP ALL CREATURES WHO WERE LEADERS IN DIMENSION X OF THEIR AUTHORITY! ALL WHO NOW DWELL IN THIS WORLD MUST SUBMIT TO ME... ZADIXX...THE ALL-POWERFUL!
ANY WHO DEFY ME WILL BE DESTROYED... I...ZADIXX... HAVE SPOKEN!
IN MANY PLACES THE REACTION TO ZADIXX'S PROCLAMATION WAS ONE OF DEFIANCE...
ZADIXX GOES TOO FAR! WE DIDN'T BARGAIN FOR SUCH TREATMENT WHEN WE AGREED TO ENTER THIS DIMENSION WITH HIM!
THERE'S BUT ONE THING TO DO! WE MUST ORGANIZE AND FIGHT ZADIXX, OR WE'LL BECOME HIS HELPLESS SLAVES!

AND WHEN ZADIXX'S SPIES REPORTED...
ON THE CONTINENT EUROPE THERE IS MUCH TALK OF REBELLION! FORCES ARE ORGANIZING...
IN ASIA IT IS THE SAME, MIGHTY ZADIXX!
BAH! THE PUNY FOOLS!

COME! I MUST PICK MY GENERALS! I'LL GIVE THOSE REBELS MY ANSWER WITH BOMBS!
WAR!

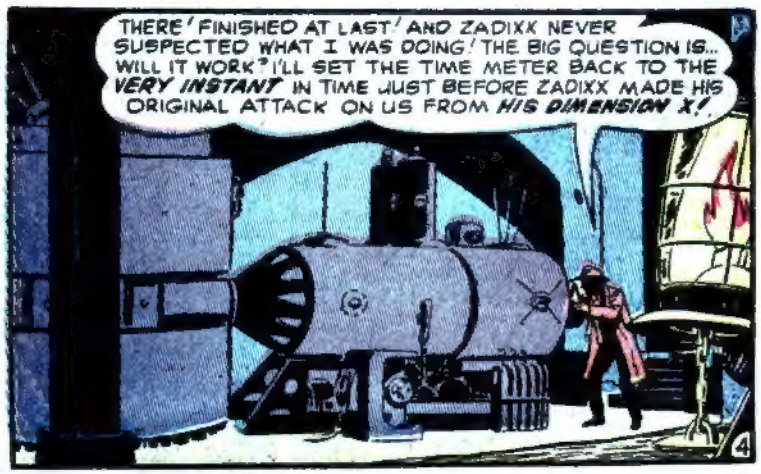
ATOM BOMBS! HYDROGEN BOMBS! GUIDED MISSILES! ZADIXX WILL USE THEM ALL! SUCH A WAR MIGHT WELL DESTROY ALL ANIMAL AND PLANT LIFE ON THE EARTH!

"OR WITH THE EARTH DEVASTATED, THE SURVIVING CREATURES MAY TRANSPORT THEMSELVES TO ANOTHER PLANE OF EXISTENCE, LEAVING OUR WORLD COMPLETELY UNINHABITED, JUST AS IT WAS ***BEFORE THE CREATION!***"

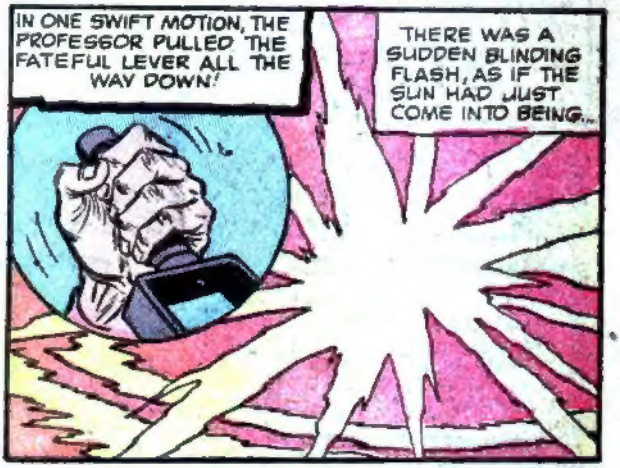
I MUST RECONSTRUCT THE CYCLOTRON MACHINE WHICH I BLASTED WITH DYNAMITE, LIKE A FOOL! I MUST RESTORE ***TIME*** AS IT WAS JUST ***BEFORE*** ZADIXX FROZE ***TIME*** AND ALL ***MOVEMENT*** IN THE WORLD!

AH, THERE ARE ENOUGH WHOLE PARTS TO START WITH! ONCE THE TIME-RESTORING CYCLOTRON SENDS THE CREATURES BACK TO DIMENSION X, TIME RELATIVITY WILL BE RESTORED TO THE INSTANT IT HAD BEEN STOPPED BY ZADIXX, AND THE WORLD WILL GO ON AS BEFORE!

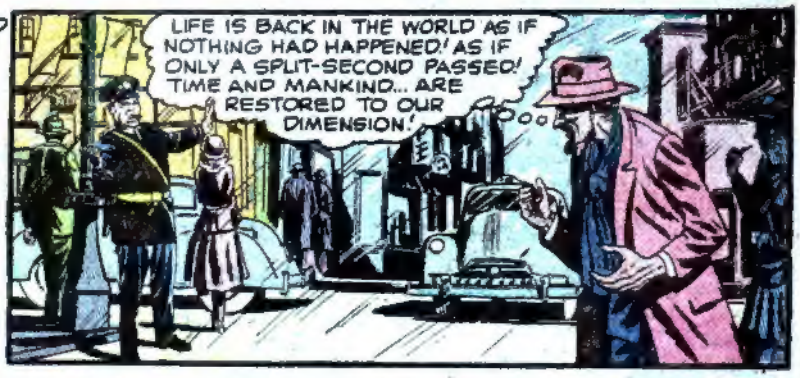
IN THE WEEKS THAT FOLLOWED, PROFESSOR THOMPSON WORKED DESPERATELY TO COMPLETE THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE CYCLOTRON, BUT THE HALF-MAD ZADIXX WAS WORKING NO LESS FEVERISHLY TO COMPLETE A LARGE SUPPLY OF MISSILES MORE DESTRUCTIVE THAN THE POWERFUL HYDROGEN BOMB...

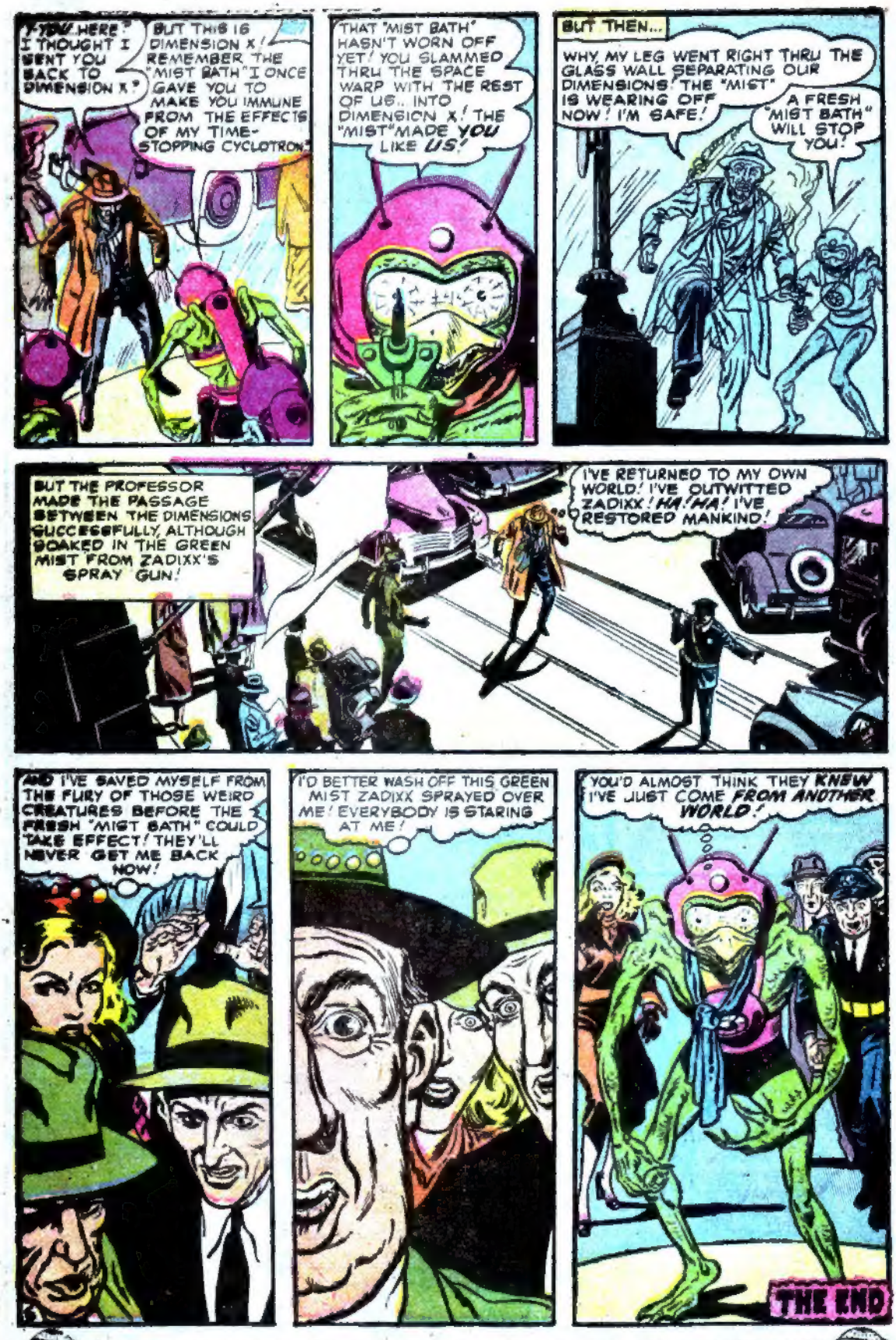

THERE! FINISHED AT LAST! AND ZADIXX NEVER SUSPECTED WHAT I WAS DOING! THE BIG QUESTION IS... WILL IT WORK? I'LL SET THE TIME METER BACK TO THE ***VERY INSTANT*** IN TIME JUST BEFORE ZADIXX MADE HIS ORIGINAL ATTACK ON US FROM ***HIS DIMENSION X!***

SO THIS IS WHERE YOU'VE BEEN SNEAKING OFF TO WHILE I'VE BEEN BUILDING UP MY ARSENAL! YOU KNOW THE PENALTY FOR DEFYING ME... DEATH!
IT'S NOW OR NEVER AND I'M NOT EVEN CERTAIN THE MACHINE WILL WORK!


IN ONE SWIFT MOTION, THE PROFESSOR PULLED THE FATEFUL LEVER ALL THE WAY DOWN!
THERE WAS A SUDDEN BLINDING FLASH, AS IF THE SUN HAD JUST COME INTO BEING...

SUCCESS! MANKIND WAS RESTORED TO THE WORLD! THE PROFESSOR FOUND HIMSELF ON THE VERY SAME SPOT ON 42ND STREET, NEW YORK, WHERE HE HAD BEEN WHEN THE CREATURES FROM DIMENSION X HAD ENTERED OUR WORLD, AFTER ZADIXX'S TIME-STOPPING CYCLOTRON HAD "FROZEN" THE HUMAN RACE AND ALL MOVEMENT IN *OUR* DIMENSION...


LIFE IS BACK IN THE WORLD AS IF NOTHING HAD HAPPENED! AS IF ONLY A SPLIT-SECOND PASSED! TIME AND MANKIND... ARE RESTORED TO OUR DIMENSION!


"YOU HERE? I THOUGHT I SENT YOU BACK TO DIMENSION X!"
BUT THIS IS DIMENSION X! REMEMBER THE "MIST BATH" I ONCE GAVE YOU TO MAKE YOU IMMUNE FROM THE EFFECTS OF MY TIME-STOPPING CYCLOTRON?
THAT "MIST BATH" HASN'T WORN OFF YET! YOU SLAMMED THRU THE SPACE WARP WITH THE REST OF US.. INTO DIMENSION X! THE "MIST" MADE YOU LIKE US!
BUT THEN...
WHY, MY LEG WENT RIGHT THRU THE GLASS WALL SEPARATING OUR DIMENSIONS! THE "MIST" IS WEARING OFF NOW! I'M SAFE!
A FRESH "MIST BATH" WILL STOP YOU!
BUT THE PROFESSOR MADE THE PASSAGE BETWEEN THE DIMENSIONS SUCCESSFULLY, ALTHOUGH SOAKED IN THE GREEN MIST FROM ZADIXX'S SPRAY GUN!
I'VE RETURNED TO MY OWN WORLD! I'VE OUTWITTED ZADIXX! HA! HA! I'VE RESTORED MANKIND!
AND I'VE SAVED MYSELF FROM THE FURY OF THOSE WEIRD CREATURES BEFORE THE FRESH "MIST BATH" COULD TAKE EFFECT! THEY'LL NEVER GET ME BACK NOW!
I'D BETTER WASH OFF THIS GREEN MIST ZADIXX SPRAYED OVER ME! EVERYBODY IS STARING AT ME!
YOU'D ALMOST THINK THEY KNEW I'VE JUST COME FROM ANOTHER WORLD!
THE END

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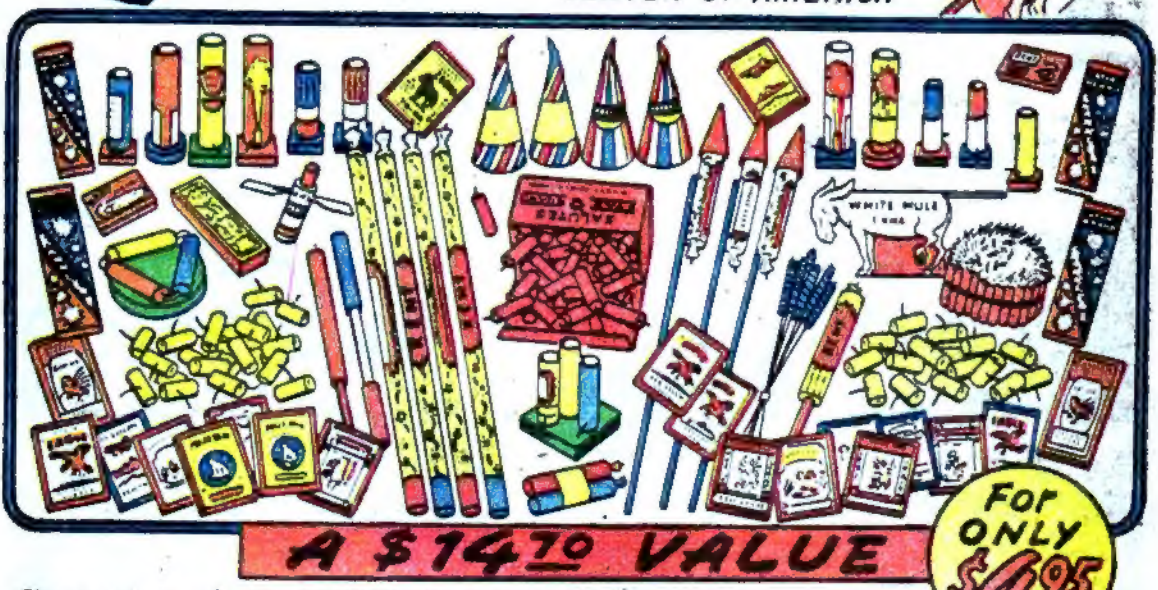

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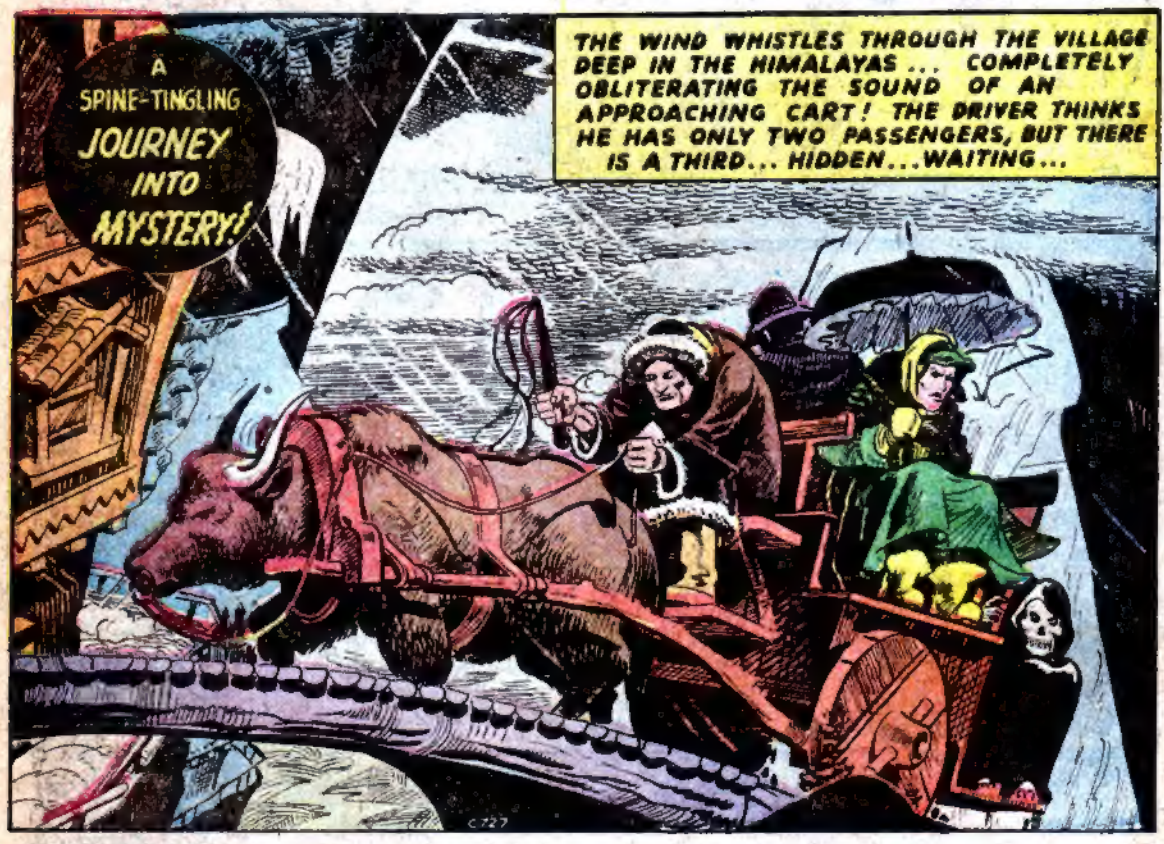
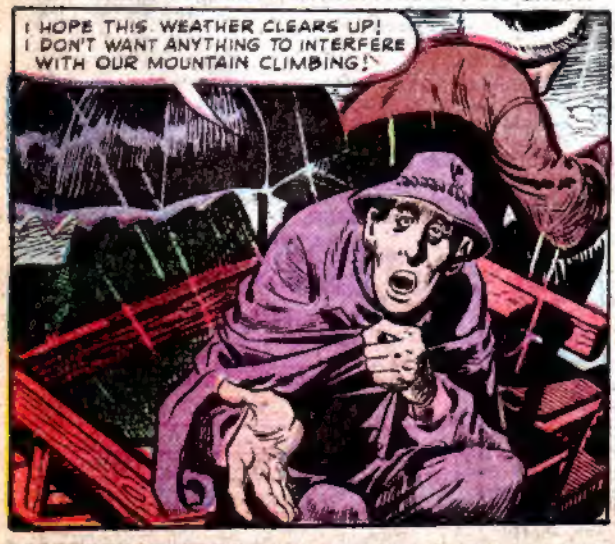
JACK AND JILL WENT UP THE HILL TO FETCH A PAIL OF WATER... REMEMBER? AND DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED TO 'EM? WELL, HERE'S ANOTHER JACK AND JILL... MAYBE THEY'LL HAVE BETTER LUCK... BUT DON'T COUNT ON IT!

JACK AND JILL WENT UP THE HILL!


A SPINE-TINGLING JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY!
THE WIND WHISTLES THROUGH THE VILLAGE DEEP IN THE HIMALAYAS... COMPLETELY OBLITERATING THE SOUND OF AN APPROACHING CART! THE DRIVER THINKS HE HAS ONLY TWO PASSENGERS, BUT THERE IS A THIRD... HIDDEN... WAITING...
C727

THIS PASSENGER IS JACK BLANCHARD... SELFISH AND WEAK! JACK IS NEXT IN LINE TO INHERIT A HUGE FORTUNE...



AND THIS IS JACK'S STEPSISTER JILL... EMBITTERED, OLD... SHE LIVES FOR BUT ONE MOMENT...

YES... THEY'RE A NICE PAIR, THESE TWO...

COME NOW, JACK! YOU MUST CONTROL YOURSELF! REMEMBER YOU WANT TO CONSERVE ALL YOUR STRENGTH FOR THE CLIMB TOMORROW...YOU'RE NOT TOO STRONG, YOU KNOW!
YES...YES... I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT!

THE HOURS PASS...SLOW HOURS THAT SEEM LIKE DAYS..

I CAME HERE FOR MOUNTAIN-CLIMBING...NOT FOR SITTING! IF THERE WERE ONLY SOMETHING TO DO BESIDES LOOK AT THE FIRE!
I CAN TELL FORTUNES BY FIRE ...IF YOU LIKE!

OLD FOOL! FORTUNE-TELLING IS NONSENSE! FIX US SOMETHING WARM TO DRINK AND MAKE YOURSELF USEFUL!
NO, JACK. LET HER DO IT! IT MIGHT BE INTERESTING!

JACK SHRUGS HIS SHOULDER...BUT HE CAN'T HELP BUT WATCH WITH CURIOSITY AS THE WOMAN BENDS CLOSE TO THE FLAMES...

THE OLD WOMAN'S EYES PIERCE THE FLAMES TO MAKE OUT THE STRANGE PROPHECY ETCHED IN THE FIRE...

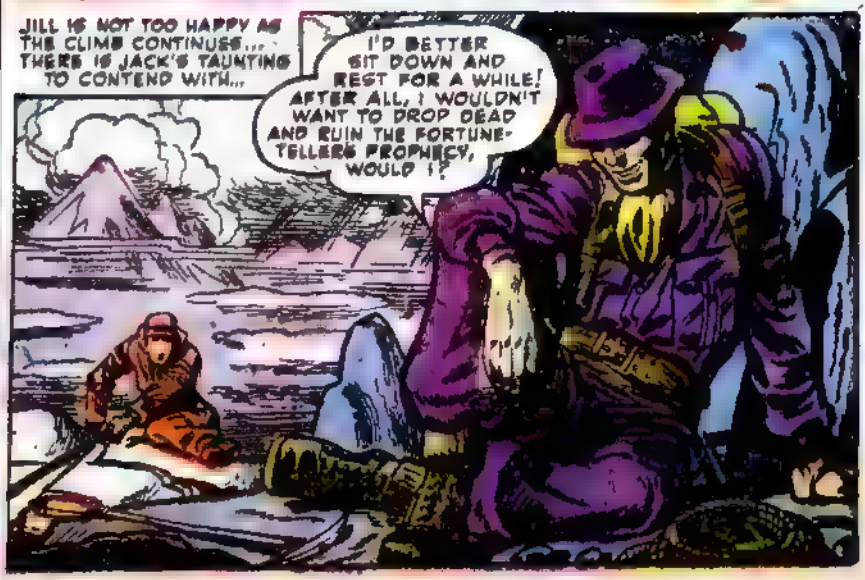
SUDDENLY THE WOMAN TURNS TO JILL...

THERE ISN'T MUCH SLEEP FOR JILL THAT NIGHT, AS THE WORDS OF THE OLD WOMAN ECHO AND RE-ECHO IN HER BRAIN...THEN WITH THE ARRIVAL OF MORNING...

I'M GLAD WE DECIDED NOT TO TAKE GUIDES! THERE'S SO MUCH MORE PLEASURE IN CLIMBING WHEN THERE'S NO ONE TO WATCH US!
YES...NO ONE TO WATCH US!

THE MOUNTAIN IS A CHALLENGE, AND YET, THERE IS ONLY ONE THOUGHT ON JILL'S MIND...

JILL IS NOT TOO HAPPY AS THE CLIMB CONTINUES... THERE IS JACK'S TAUNTING TO CONTEND WITH...



HATE AND ENVY CAN FESTER WITHIN A PERSON, TWISTING A BRAIN, UNTIL ONE THOUGHT POPS OUT IN CLEAR RELIEF...

MURDER...I'VE GOT TO KILL HIM! IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO MAKE SURE!

ARE YOU READY TO START AGAIN, JILL? WHAT ARE YOU DOING THERE?

N-NOTHING, JACK...NOTHING AT ALL!

NO...THIS IS NOT THE TIME...NOT YET!

WE'D BETTER USE THIS ROPE FROM NOW ON... IN CASE THE GOING IS TOO ROUGH!

ANYTHING YOU SAY, JACK!

AND THE CLIMB STARTS AGAIN...

I'LL GO FIRST, JILL, AND I'LL PULL YOU UP AFTER ME!

BITS OF ICE RATTLE DOWN BESIDE JILL AS SHE WATCHES HER STEPBROTHER CLIMB, AND THE THOUGHT GROWS TO A ROARING WITHIN HER TWISTED BRAIN... THIS THE TIME!

I'VE GOT TO DO IT! I'VE GOT TO!

AGHHHHHHHHH!

CRACK

JACK COMES TUMBLING DOWN THE HILL...
JILL! HELP ME!
HA HA HA HA
THE ROPE! I FORGOT WE WERE TIED TOGETHER!
BUT...IS IT A MIRACLE...OR A TORTURE?
AND JILL COMES TUMBLING AFTER...
DOWN THEY GO, OVER THE EDGE, TO CERTAIN DEATH! BUT THEN A MIRACLE HAPPENS! THE ROPE CATCHES ON A ROCK!
TWANG
JACK! HELP ME! WE'RE BALANCED HERE...I CAN'T CLIMB UP!
I--I'M TOO WEAK, JILL! I'M BLEEDING!
IT'S FUNNY, JILL! THAT PROPHECY.. IT'S COMING TRUE, ISN'T IT? YOU CAN'T GET UP AND YOU CAN'T GET DOWN! ALL YOU CAN DO IS HANG HERE UNTIL YOU DIE... LOOKING AT MY FACE!
NO! NO! IT CAN'T BE! HELP ME. SOMEBODY! HELP ME!
BUT SCREAMS ARE USELESS, JILL! THERE YOU WILL HANG UNTIL COLD OR STARVATION CLAIMS YOU...THERE IS NO HOPE!
THE END

ATLAS FOR THE BEST IN SUSPENSE STORIES LOOK FOR THE ATLAS SEAL ON THE COVER! ATLAS

Hi there, Pal! Win Some of these 100 Silver Anniversary Prizes!

I just won $100. and this 15" tall Silver Trophy
I just won this $1,000,000 Body and a Gold Medal!

You Can Win All These just as I did in 10 MINUTES OF FUN A DAY!

I GAINED 60 LBS. OF HANDSOME HARD-HITTING MUSCLES!

THIS MAY BE YOUR LAST CHANCE TO GET FOR ALL 5 10¢ PICTURE PACKED COURSES MILLIONS HAVE BEEN SOLD FOR $1 AND MORE

Which of these 2 ME'S is YOU? that 125 lb.—6 ft. • CHICKEN CHESTED WEAKLING BELOW WAS ME A FEW SHORT WEEKS AGO

John Sill NOW

Yes! You still can win $100 and other 25th Anniversary Prizes, if you MAIL coupon below NOW. Your success can soon be like mine. A few weeks ago I was a skinny weakling like you. I had no guts to fight for my rights. TODAY everyone admires my champ movie-star build. My mighty ARMS. My heroic CHEST. My wide manly SHOULDERS. My POPULARITY with boys. The way GIRLS go for me—once so girl-shy. My new prowess in SPORTS. My new quickness in STUDIES. My double-energy at work.

NO! friend you don't have to be SKINNY any more. Just mail NOW the FREE coupon below as I did. Soon YOU can add 7 inches to your CHEST 3½ inches to EACH ARM and the rest in proportion as I did.

How to Build MIGHTY ARMS
How to Build MIGHTY CHEST
How to Build MIGHTY LEGS
How to Build A MIGHTY BACK
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FREE
PHOTO BOOK NOW to Achieve Marvels of Steel, Muscles of Iron
How to BECOME A MIGHTY HE-MAN
There's that skinny scarecrow JOHN. Let's pass him by!
John Sill before
JOHN SILL was a 125 lb. 6 ft. WEAKLING LOOK at him NOW. A MOVIE-STAR HE-MAN from Head to Toe as YOU can be soon!

Come On, PAL NOW YOU give me 10 PLEASANT MINUTES A DAY IN YOUR OWN HOME and I'll give YOU A NEW HE-MAN BODY for your OLD SKELETON FRAME says George F. Jowett World's Greatest Builder of HE-MEN

GEORGE F. JOWETT "Champion of Champions" 4 times Winner Perfect Man Contest

NO! I don't care how skinny or flabby you are, if you're a teen-ager, in your 20's or 30's or over, if you're short or tall, or what work you do. All I want is JUST 10 EXCITING MINUTES in your home to MAKE YOU OVER by the SAME METHOD I turned myself from a wreck to a Champion of Champions.

YES! You'll see INCH upon INCH of MIGHTY MUSCLE added to YOUR ARMS. Your CHEST deepened. Your BACK AND SHOULDERS broadened. From head to heels, you'll become an ALL-Around, ALL-American HE-MAN WINNER—or my Training won't cost you one solitary cent!

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Gain Pounds, INCHES, FAST!

After a LIFETIME STUDY of every way known to develop your body I have devised the BEST by TEST, my "5-WAY PROGRESSIVE POWER" the only method that builds you 5-ways fast. You save YEARS, DOLLARS like movie star Tom Tyler did. Like champ John Sill did. Like MANY THOUSANDS like you did. SO Mail coupon NOW!

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WITCH-GIRL

THE principal shook his head unbelievingly.

"What you're asking me to believe, Miss Lamson," he said slowly, "is that one of the teachers in my school is afraid of magic and sorcery!"

"Afraid!" the conservatively-dressed old lady snapped. "*Afraid?* Of course I'm afraid. You would be too, if you knew as much about Elsie Grendell as I did!"

"But she's only a ten-year-old child, Miss Lamson!" The principal, Mr. O'Brien, sounded as if he were desperately trying to make sense. "And you're a grown woman. Surely you're not afraid of your own pupils!"

"Child, fiddlesticks! She's a witch, that's what she is, a little *witch*. And she's far too dangerous to be around."

The principal wiped his forehead with a large white handkerchief. The trouble was, he reflected, teachers with any experience, were very hard to get these days. And Miss Lamson, for all of her old-fashioned, superstitious notions, was really an excellent teacher.

But he couldn't let her go on teaching as long as she felt this way about one of her pupils . . .

"Sit down, Miss Lamson; please sit down," he begged. "Let's go over this from the beginning and see if we can make it sound like sense to both of us."

With an angry sniff, the old maid instructress sat down again.

Mr. O'Brien sat down too. He glanced at his desk for a moment, to make certain there was no immediate business for him to take care of; then he turned to the teacher.

"Now, Miss Lamson, let us begin at the beginning. When did you first suspect that Elsie Grendell was—er, was a—uh, *witch?*"

"From the very first day that she came into my class," the teacher said with certainty. "From the very first day!"

"Well, what exactly made you think that?"

"Instinct!"

The principal started to laugh, but controlled himself in time. "Instinct? Surely that's no basis to tell a witch from a normal little girl!"

"Best basis in the world," Miss Lamson told him primly. "Logic sometimes fails. Instinct never does!"

Mr. O'Brien rose and walked slowly about the office, his hands locked behind his back. He definitely did not like the turn that Miss Lamson's mind had taken, he decided.

"Now I must ask you for facts," he said in a somewhat sterner voice. "What actual facts do you have to go on?"

"The tripping."

"I beg your pardon?"

"The tripping. Ever since I gave Elsie Grendell a failing grade in arithmetic, I've been tripping on something whenever I walk into the classroom. And *she* sits in the fourth row and laughs at me!"

"Well, now, Miss Lamson," the principal pointed out with a little hesitation, "you've not been growing younger and I dare say your eyes aren't as sharp as they used to be. Probably some of the children have been playing little jokes on you, such as stretching some rope across the doorway or perhaps a large stone—"

"My eyes aren't *that* bad," she told him brusquely. "And I got down on my hands and knees and felt around for something like that, but nothing was there. I shouldn't have tripped. It was witchcraft, I tell you!"

(*continued after next page*)

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The principal adopted a soothing attitude. "Suppose it were. Just let us suppose it were! Why should it be Elsie Grendell? You failed other little girls in arithmetic, didn't you? Well, even assuming you're right about witchcraft being involved, it could have been any one of them!"

"No it couldn't. It just had to be Elsie!"

"How do you know?" he challenged.

"I told you. *Instinct!*"

Mr. O'Brien threw up his hands helplessly. "I can't argue with that sort of thing!"

"No one can argue with witchcraft. There's only one thing to do with a witch."

"And what's that?"

The old teacher's thin lips came firmly together. "Kill her!"

"Now you listen to me, Miss Lamson," the principal exclaimed. "I've heard a good deal of nonsense and foolishness from you this afternoon. But once you begin to talk in terms of murdering your pupils, you are no longer fit to be a teacher; and I don't care if I can find a replacement for you or no. I'm afraid I must ask you to resign!"

"That's certainly your privilege, Mr. O'Brien. I'll send my resignation in to the Board of Education tonight. As soon as they approve it, I'll be on my way. Meanwhile, I expect you want me to teach my class for this day?"

"Yes, of course," he said. "And look here, Miss Lamson, won't you please reconsider and change your mind about Elsie?"

She shook her head at him, slowly, sorrowfully.

"I might have, if I hadn't seen her begin making a doom-doll."

"A doom-doll? What's that?"

"It's a doll made out of wax, but carefully carved to resemble

the witch's enemy. Anything that happens to the doll will happen to the enemy! All that it needs to make it deadly is a snip of hair from the person's head or a bit of clothing she wears or a—"

"That's strange," the principal mused. "I've been wondering about that untidy length of hair in the back of your head. No offense, Miss Lamson, but your hair is usually so carefully combed that a short tendril like that has really been making me wonder."

The old teacher had screamed at his words and dashed to the office mirror. She twisted her head around and stared over her shoulder.

"She did it, she *did* it!" she wailed. "She must have sneaked up behind me and cut it off sometime in class today. And now she has me in her power! All she has to do is put the lock of my hair upon the doll's head, and she'll be able to do anything she wants with me!"

"Now don't be foolish," Mr. O'Brien began, stepping forward to console her. Abruptly, he leaped backward as a terrific gust of heat roared out from the old maid teacher.

He turned his head, unable to bear her screams or the sight of what was happening to her. And as he did, he looked out of the window and understood.

For Elsie Grendell was downstairs, just under the window. The ten-year-old girl had built a bonfire and thrown a little wax doll upon it. And the wax doll, with a long plume of hair serving as a wick, was burning like a candle!

THE END 9699

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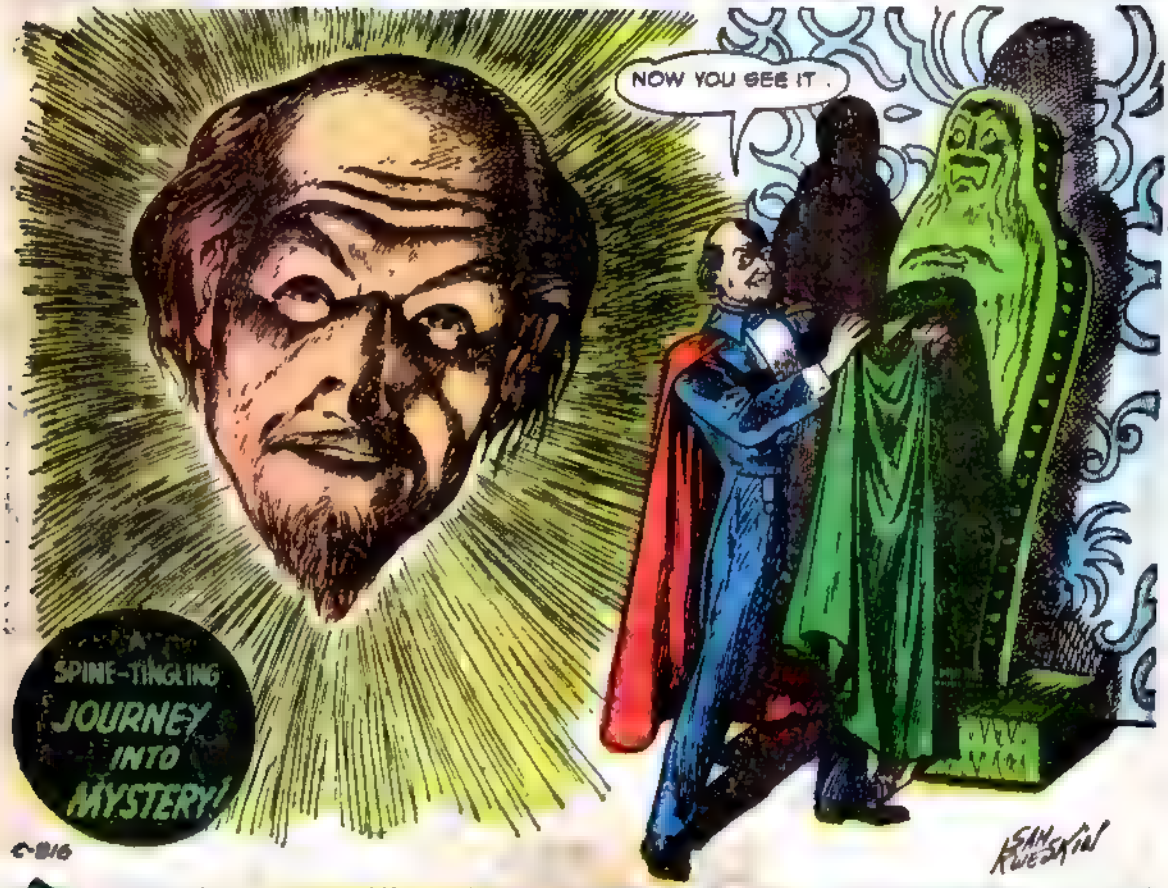
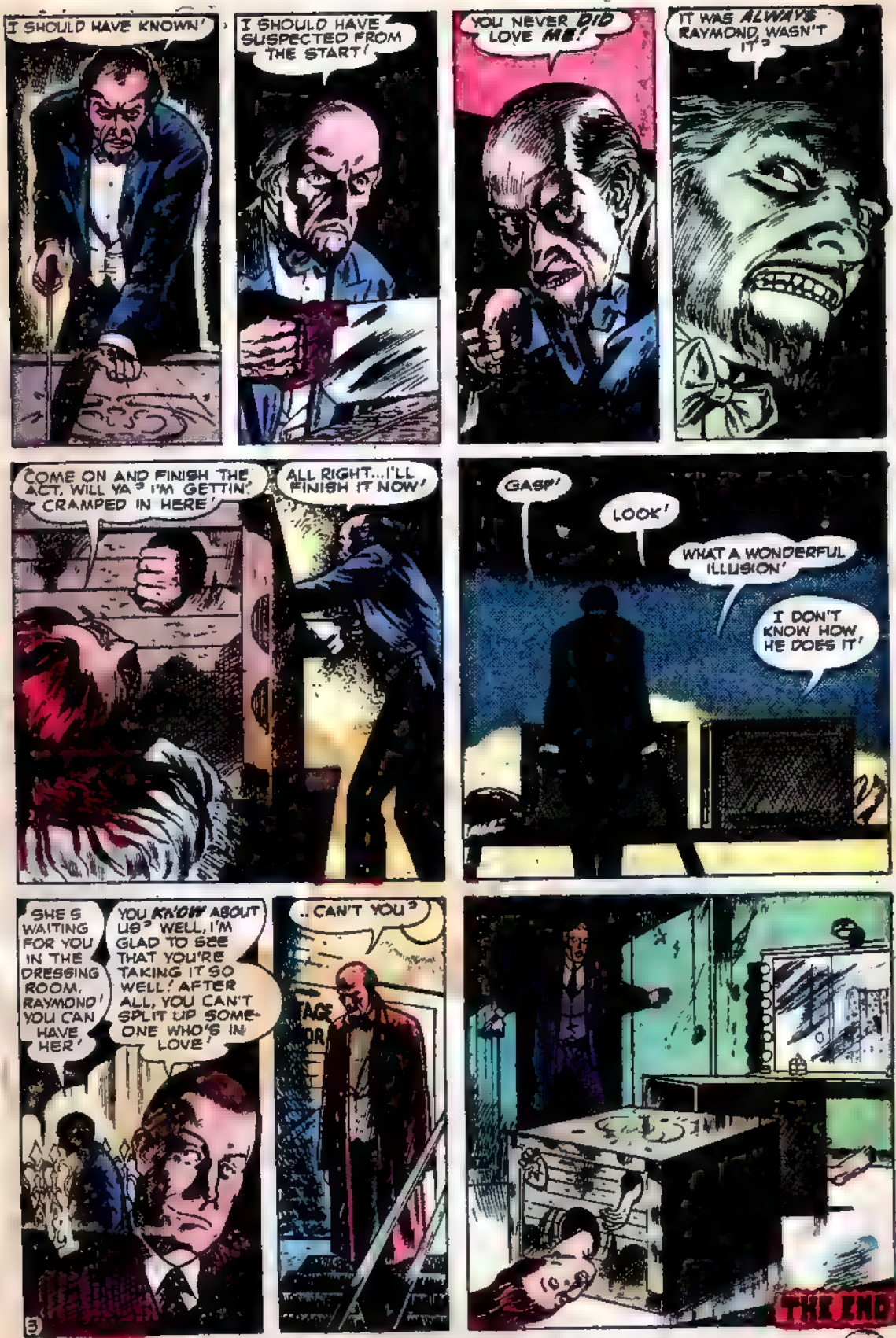
POOR JILL! SHE'S AT THE END OF HER ROPE, AND IF JACK FALLS, JILL WILL COME TUMBLING AFTER! ON WITH THE SHOW... THIS MAGICIAN IS NOT IN THE SAME CLASS AS A MEDIUM BUT THERE'S A LOT AT STAKE WHEN HE GOES INTO HIS SEANCE... IT'S A RARE PERFORMANCE AND THE AUDIENCE CHEERS AN ACT WELL DONE!

NOW YOU SEE IT...



AND NOW, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, FOR MY MOST FAMOUS... AND MOST DIFFICULT ILLUSION...
I SHALL SAW MY WIFE IN HALF!
MAKE IT LOOK GOOD, YOU WORM! THIS IS THE LAST TIME YOU'LL EVER DO THIS! I'M LEAVING YOU TONIGHT!
NO, YOU CAN'T, YOU MUSTN'T!
DO YOU THINK I WANNA SPEND THE REST OF MY LIFE TIED DOWN TO A SMALL-TIME VAUDEVILLE HAS-BEEN LIKE YOU? GET WISE, HUBBY... AND GET LOST!
IT'S SOMEONE ELSE.. I KNOW IT! WHO IS IT? TELL ME... WHO IS IT?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT BUSINESS IT IS OF YOURS, BUT IT'S SAM RAYMOND, OUR MANAGER! HE'S MEETING ME BACKSTAGE AFTER THE SHOW AND TAKING ME TO RENO!
RAYMOND! I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN! THERE HE IS NOW, GETTING READY TO GO BACKSTAGE! THE SWINE!
ARE YOU SURE YOU WON'T RECONSIDER? YOU KNOW HOW MUCH I LOVE YOU!
SHUT UP AND FINISH THE ACT, WILL YA? YOU'RE MAKING ME FEEL SICK!
LISTEN TO THEM OUT THERE... THE FOOLS! YOU'D THINK YOU WERE REALLY CUTTING ME BY THE WAY THEY GASP!
SO YOU'RE GOING THRU WITH IT AFTER ALL!
2


I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN!
I SHOULD HAVE SUSPECTED FROM THE START!
YOU NEVER DID LOVE ME!
IT WAS ALWAYS RAYMOND, WASN'T IT?
COME ON AND FINISH THE ACT, WILL YA? I'M GETTIN' CRAMPED IN HERE!
ALL RIGHT...I'LL FINISH IT NOW!
GASP!
LOOK!
WHAT A WONDERFUL ILLUSION!
I DON'T KNOW HOW HE DOES IT!
SHE'S WAITING FOR YOU IN THE DRESSING ROOM, RAYMOND! YOU CAN HAVE HER!
YOU KNOW ABOUT US? WELL, I'M GLAD TO SEE THAT YOU'RE TAKING IT SO WELL! AFTER ALL, YOU CAN'T SPLIT UP SOMEONE WHO'S IN LOVE!
..CAN'T YOU?
THE END

ATLAS FOR THE BEST IN SUSPENSE STORIES LOOK FOR THE ATLAS SEAL ON THE COVER! ATLAS

WELL, THAT'S **ONE** WAY FOR A HUSBAND TO DISPOSE OF HIS BETTER HALF-AND-HALF! THE NEXT STOP ON OUR **JOURNEY** IS **PARIS**... THE ASSASSIN WAS REALLY ONLY INTERESTED IN EXPENSIVE **BAUBLES**, BUT HIS VICTIMS KEPT **BABBLING**... SO HE UPS AND SILENCES THE CHATTERBOXES! THEN ALONG COMES A YOUNG MAGPIE ...AND THE FRENCHMAN'S **REALLY** IN TROUBLE!

THE ASSASSIN OF PARIS

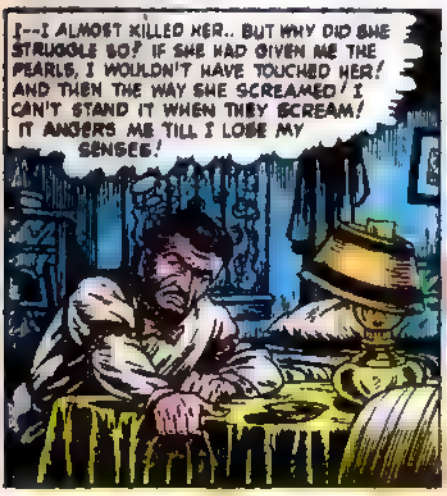
C-701

AND WHEN THE GENDARMES ARRIVED!

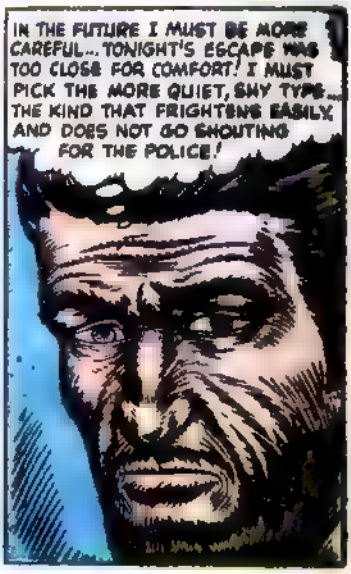
AND YOU SAY THAT YOU NEVER SAW HIM BEFORE TONIGHT... THAT YOU MET HIM IN A CAFE?
THAT IS TRUE...BUT I HAD NO IDEA! HE SEEMED SO MUCH THE GENTLEMAN, SO WELL-MANNERED... SO WELL-BEHAVED!

THAT IS HIS CALLING CARD, MADEMOISELLE! AT LEAST FIVE OTHER WOMEN HAVE BEEN DECEIVED, JUST AS YOU, DURING THE PAST TWO MONTHS! YOUR CHARMING COMPANION WAS NONE OTHER THAN THE ASSASSIN OF PARIS!

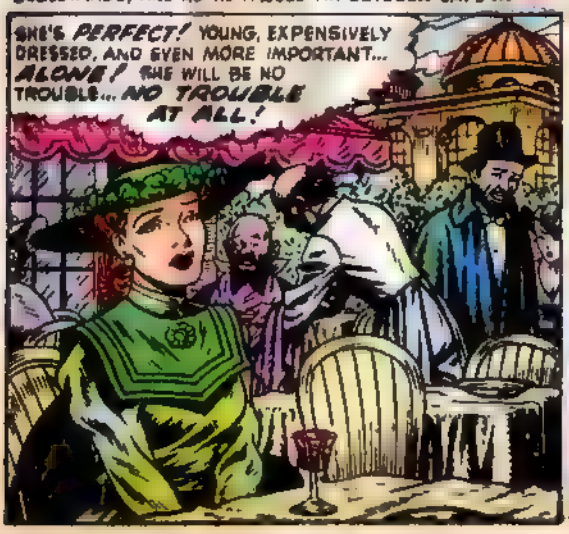
AND NOT FAR OFF, IN A SMALL ROOM, THE ASSASSIN SAT AND PONDERED OVER THE EVENTS...


I--I ALMOST KILLED HER.. BUT WHY DID SHE STRUGGLE SO? IF SHE HAD GIVEN ME THE PEARLS, I WOULDN'T HAVE TOUCHED HER! AND THEN THE WAY SHE SCREAMED! I CAN'T STAND IT WHEN THEY SCREAM! IT ANGERS ME TILL I LOSE MY SENSES!

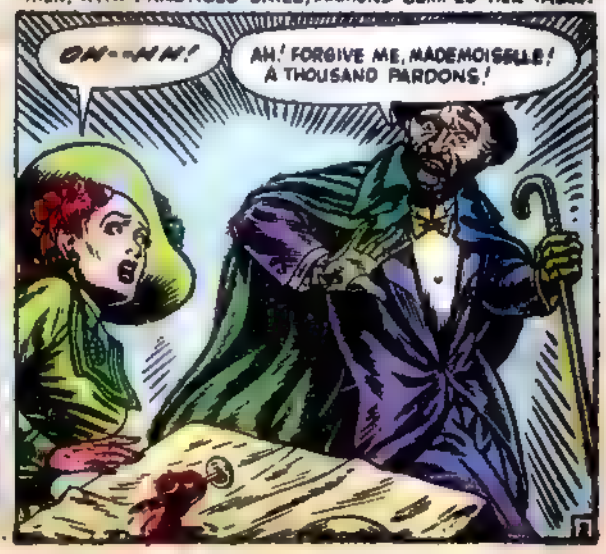
LIKE THAT FIRST ONE TWO MONTHS AGO! I DIDN'T MEAN TO KILL HER! ALL I WANTED WAS THE BRACELET, BUT SHE FOUGHT LIKE A TIGRESS! I HAD TO SILENCE HER! I HAD NO CHOICE!


IN THE FUTURE I MUST BE MORE CAREFUL... TONIGHT'S ESCAPE WAS TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT! I MUST PICK THE MORE QUIET, SHY TYPE... THE KIND THAT FRIGHTENS EASILY AND DOES NOT GO SHOUTING FOR THE POLICE!

THUS, THREE NIGHTS LATER, ARMOND PROWLED THE BOULEVARDS, AND AS HE PASSED AN OUTDOOR CAFE...



THEN, WITH PRACTICED SKILL, ARMOND BUMPED HER TABLE!



SO STUPID AND CLUMSY OF ME! YOU MUST PERMIT ME TO REPLACE YOUR WINE, OTHERWISE I WILL FEEL MY EVENING IS SPOILED!
BUT YOU MUSTN'T BLAME YOURSELF, MONSIEUR! THERE IS SO LITTLE ROOM BETWEEN THE TABLES... IT COULD HAPPEN TO ANYONE!
THEN YOU AREN'T ANGRY? HOW WONDERFUL! IN THAT CASE IT WILL BE THE FINEST CHAMPAGNE FOR THE MOST GRACIOUS LADY IN ALL OF PARIS!
YOU FLATTER ME, MONSIEUR... BUT I ACCEPT YOUR INVITATION!
THEN, WITH ALL HIS SKILLED CHARM, THE ASSASSIN OF PARIS WENT TO WORK...
I WAS ONLY THINKING, HERE WE ARE, SITTING AND CHATTING FOR THE PAST HALF HOUR, WHILE ALL OF PARIS AWAITS US! THE BOULEVARD IS A PLACE TO MEET PEOPLE, BUT ONCE THEY HAVE MET IT IS NO PLACE TO TALK!
BUT THAT IS WHY I AM HERE! MY SISTER IS TO MEET ME IN A LITTLE WHILE!
THEN LEAVE HER A NOTE WITH THE WAITER! TELL HER THAT YOU MET AN OLD FRIEND WHO WAS NEW TO PARIS, AND WHO INSISTED THAT YOU SHOW HIM THE SIGHTS!
I--I REALLY SHOULDN'T.. BUT THEN YOU MAKE IT SO DIFFICULT TO SAY NO! ALRIGHT THEN-- I WILL!
AND AS THE GIRL PENNED HER NOTE ...
THAT BROOCH MUST HAVE FIFTY DIAMONDS IN IT AT LEAST, AND I'M CERTAIN HER HANDBAG MUST BE STUFFED WITH FRANC NOTES! THERE'S A TIDY FORTUNE WAITING FOR ME, AND IT'S GOING TO BE EASY... EASIER THAN ALL THE REST!
THE NOTE FINISHED, THE PAIR LEFT ARM IN ARM...
I KNOW OF A LITTLE PLACE NOT TOO FAR OFF! IT'S TYPICALLY BOHEMIAN, AND THE FOOD IS PAR EXCELLENCE! ARE YOU AGREED?
I AM WHEN YOU MAKE IT SOUND SO EXCITING!
THEN WE CAN TAKE THIS SIDE STREET! IT WILL GET US THERE FAR MORE QUICKLY!
I KNOW THIS STREET QUITE WELL, BUT AT NIGHT IT FRIGHTENS ME! IT-- IT'S SO DARK! DO YOU THINK IT SILLY OF ME?

I WOULD IF YOU WERE TO WALK HERE ALONE, BUT IT'S DIFFERENT WHEN YOU'RE WITH ME!
OF COURSE.. THAT DOES MAKE A DIFFERENCE!
IT'S COMFORTING TO... YOUR EYES! WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT...
N-NO! MMPFH!
DON'T SCREAM! ALL I WANT IS THE BROOCH AND THE MONEY! YOU'RE NOT LIKE THE OTHERS! YOU WON'T CRY OUT... PROMISE ME YOU WON'T!
ALL I WANT IS YOUR... GW-HH!
BANG!
AND WHEN THE GENDARMES RACED UP..
HE'S DYING!
AND YOU, MADEMOISELLE? ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
YES... I'M ALRIGHT... NOW!
YOUR WAITER GAVE ME YOUR NOTE THE MOMENT YOU LEFT! YOU WROTE THAT THE ASSASSIN OF PARIS WAS WITH YOU! HOW COULD YOU HAVE BEEN SO SURE?
IF YOU WILL LOOK AT THE WALL BEHIND YOU, YOU WILL KNOW WHY!
STAGE EXIT
The SENSATIONAL MADEMOISELLE
MIND READER EXTRAORDINARY
THE END

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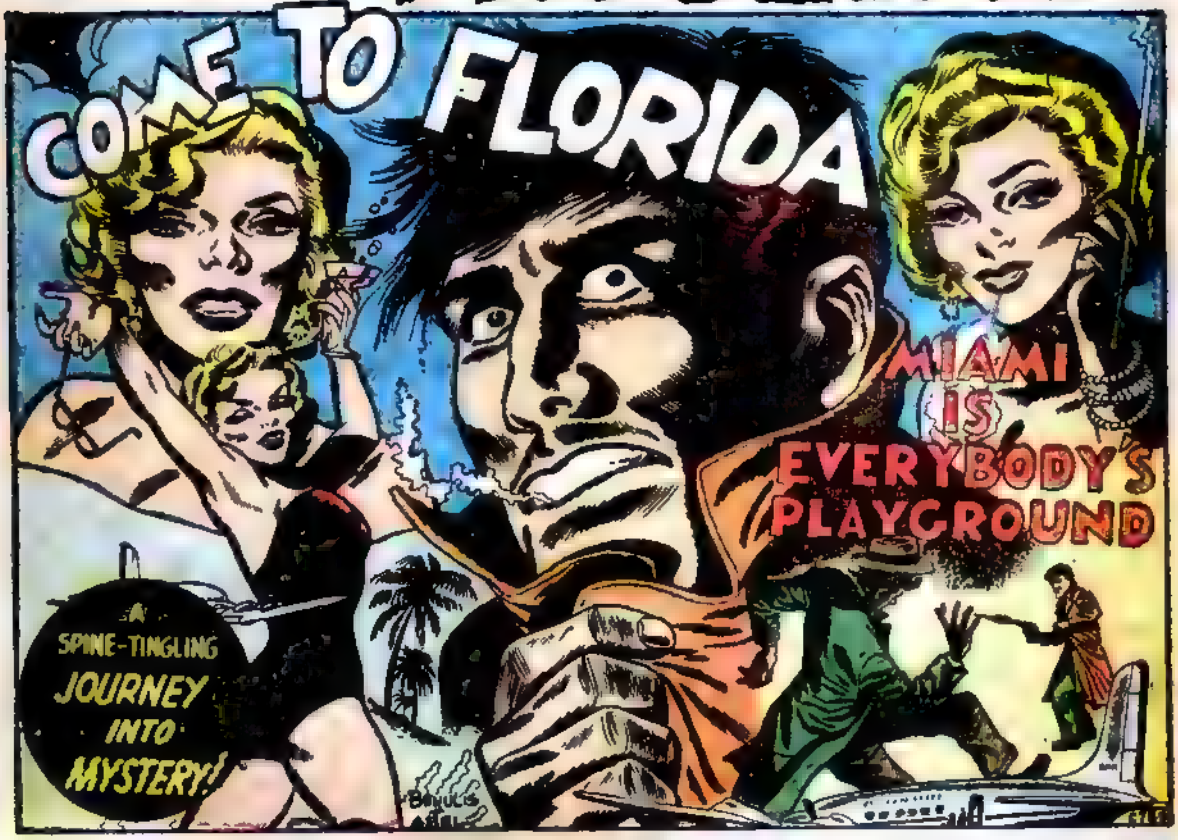
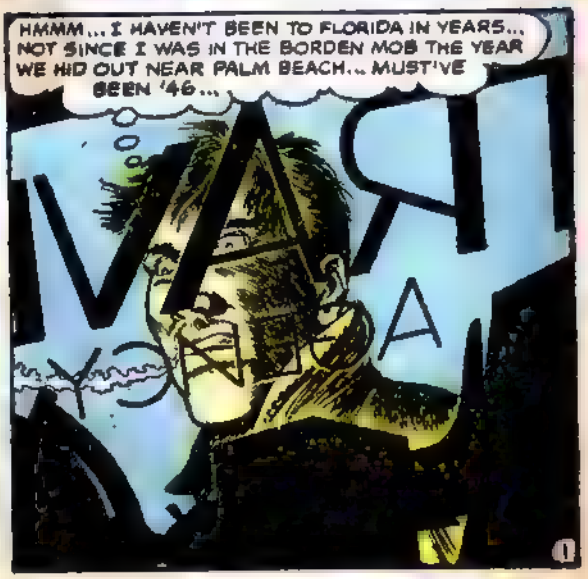
A VACATION FOR VINCENT!

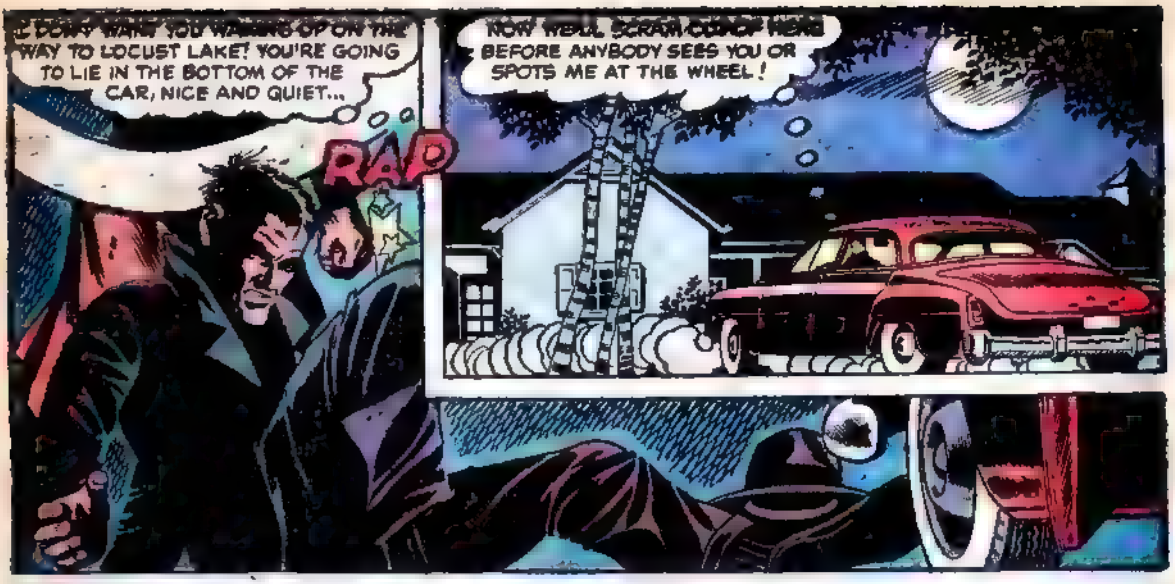


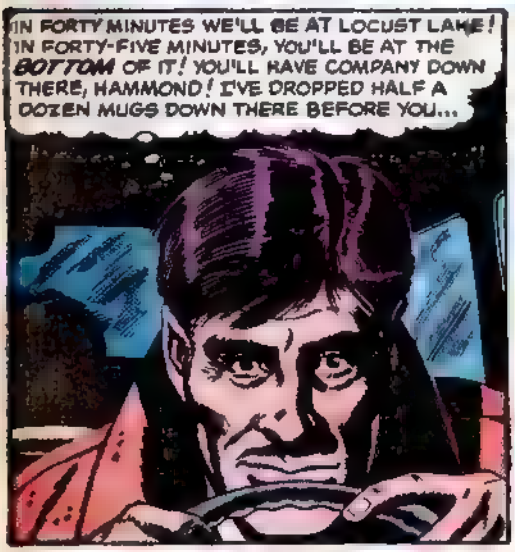
VINCENT FERRICK WAS A GUNMAN FOR HIRE... BUT VINCENT WAS OVERWORKED, AND THE STRAIN WAS CATCHING UP WITH HIM...

I'VE GOT TO RELAX! I'M GETTING SO NERVOUS MY OWN SHADOW GIVES ME THE JITTERS!
CUBA
TRAVEL AGENCY
SEA to CUBA
FLORIDA
MINGLE IN Miami

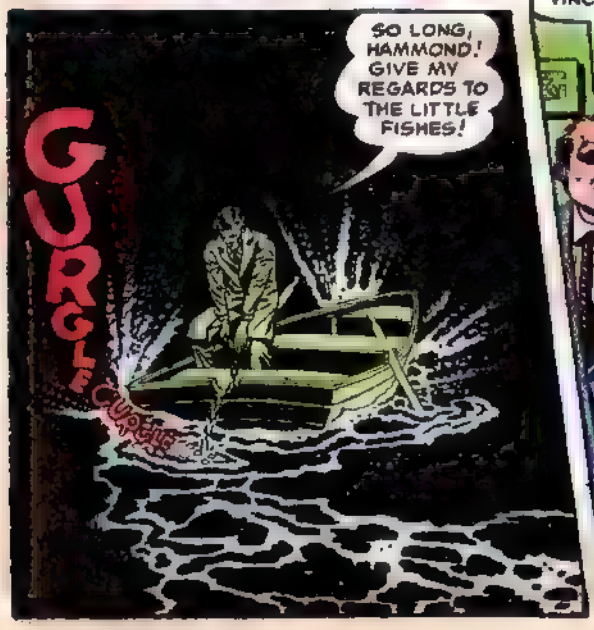

HMMM... I HAVEN'T BEEN TO FLORIDA IN YEARS... NOT SINCE I WAS IN THE BORDEN MOB THE YEAR WE HID OUT NEAR PALM BEACH... MUST'VE BEEN '46...
VARA

SUNSHINE... THE BEACHES... THE NIGHT CLUBS... THE DAMES! A GUY CAN FORGET HIS WORRIES THERE!
I WANT A PLANE TO MIAMI TONIGHT... NEAR TWELVE O'CLOCK! CAN YOU GET ME A RESERVATION FOR ONE... ONE WAY?
. THAT'S RATHER SHORT NOTICE, SIR... BUT I'LL TRY!
CLICK
CLICK
WE'RE IN LUCK, SIR! THERE'S BEEN A CANCELLATION ON THE 12:09... FLIGHT 16!
THAT'S GREAT! HOW MUCH? WHERE DO I PICK UP MY TICKET?
TRAVEL
THAT'S THAT! THAT WAS A SMART MOVE, BROTHER VINCENT! YOU GET OUT OF TOWN AND YOU CAN RELAX FOR A COUPLE OF MONTHS WITH THE DOUGH YOU EARN TONIGHT!
FLIP
BUT THERE WAS WORK TO BE DONE BEFORE 12:09... DIRTY WORK! AT 7:25 P.M. THAT NIGHT, IN THE SUBURBS...
I THOUGHT ED HAMMOND HAD MORE BRAINS THAN THAT! HE SHOULD'VE KNOWN THE GANG WOULD GUN HIM! THE MOB DOESN'T TAKE "NO" FROM ANYBODY!
17-431
HERE COMES THE SAP NOW! WHEN WILL THESE GUYS LEARN THEY CAN'T BUCK THE SYNDICATE? IT'S SMARTER TO PAY A BRIBE THAN THE UNDERTAKER!
RRRAP
2


I DON'T WANT YOU WAKING UP ON THE WAY TO LOCUST LAKE! YOU'RE GOING TO LIE IN THE BOTTOM OF THE CAR, NICE AND QUIET...
RAP
NOW WE'LL SCRAM QUICK! HOME BEFORE ANYBODY SEES YOU OR SPOTS ME AT THE WHEEL!


IN FORTY MINUTES WE'LL BE AT LOCUST LAKE! IN FORTY-FIVE MINUTES, YOU'LL BE AT THE BOTTOM OF IT! YOU'LL HAVE COMPANY DOWN THERE, HAMMOND! I'VE DROPPED HALF A DOZEN MUGS DOWN THERE BEFORE YOU...

YES...IT WAS ALL ROUTINE BY NOW FOR VINCENT FERRICK! HE'D PREPARED EVERYTHING THE DAY BEFORE...THE ROWBOAT, THE CHAINS, THE CEMENT BLOCKS...



AT 11:00 P.M., VINCENT COLLECTED HIS FEE...

WHERE YOU HEADED FOR, VINCENT?
MIAMI! I NEED A VACATION! SOON AS I GET SETTLED DOWN THERE, NICK, I'LL DROP YOU A CARD! I'M GOING TO HAVE THE TIME OF MY LIFE!

AT 12:09 VINCENT WAS MIAMI-BOUND...

NOW TO TAKE IT EASY! TO LOAF AND SLEEP AND SWIM! IN A NERVE-WRACKING BUSINESS LIKE MINE, YOU EITHER GET AWAY FROM IT ALL... OR CRACK UP!

MIAMI DIDN'T DISAPPOINT VINCENT! LIFE WAS A DREAM DOWN THERE! HE GOT ALL THE RELAXATION ANY TIRED BUSINESS-MAN NEEDED..

AH! THIS SUN IS GREAT!

THE WEEKS PASSED... IT WAS A CONTINUOUS ROUND OF FUN AND ENJOYMENT... SWIMMING, FISHING, GOLF, NIGHT-CLUBBING...

BOY! THIS IS THE LIFE! WHEN I GO BACK NORTH, I'LL FEEL LIKE A NEW MAN!

ONE DAY ON THE BEACH, VINCENT SAW A GIRL WHO LOOKED AS IF SHE STEPPED RIGHT OUT OF A TRAVEL AD! NOT BEING THE SHY TYPE, VINCENT LOST LITTLE TIME...

NO, I'M NOT HERE WITH ANYBODY! I JUST GOT INTO MIAMI THIS MORNING...

THEN, BABY, YOU MET THE RIGHT MAN! I'LL SHOW YOU THE TIME OF YOUR LIFE! ANY PLACE YOU WANT TO GO... YOU JUST NAME IT...

SHE NAMED IT AND VINCENT TOOK HER THERE! VINCENT WAS IN SEVENTH HEAVEN...

I DREAMED ABOUT GIRLS LIKE YOU, HONEY! AND HERE I AM WITH YOU IN MY ARMS!

I'M VERY FOND OF YOU, VINCENT! WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOU'RE HOME? HOW DO YOU EARN YOUR LIVING?

I'M IN THE *WRECKING* BUSINESS! I GET GOOD MONEY FOR IT, BUT LET'S NOT TALK ABOUT BUSINESS, BABY! LET'S TALK ABOUT *US!*

ONE NIGHT THEY WENT FOR A MOONLIGHT SWIM, JUST OUTSIDE OF MIAMI...

THERE'S A NICE DESERTED STRIP OF BEACH! IF WE GO RIGHT BEHIND THAT SAND DUNE WE'LL BE ABSOLUTELY ALONE!

WONDERFUL! MIAMI BEACH IS FUN... BUT YOU GET TIRED OF HAVING PEOPLE AROUND ALL THE TIME!

THE MOON WAS HIGH... THE TIDES WERE LOW... AND VINCENT FERRICK WAS DRUNK WITH HAPPINESS!

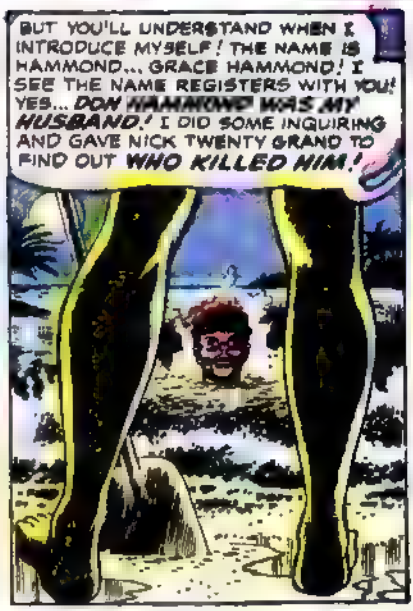
LOOK, BABY, I NEVER FELT THIS WAY ABOUT A DAME BEFORE! I'M NUTS ABOUT YOU! HOW ABOUT US HAVING FUN ALL YEAR ROUND? LET'S GET HITCHED!

BEFORE I SAY ANYTHING, DARLING, I THINK YOU SHOULD KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT ME! I WAS MARRIED BEFORE! DO YOU MIND?

IT WAS A KISS VINCENT FERRICK WOULD NEVER FORGET! AS HIS LIPS CLOSED ON HERS, A STABBING PAIN SHOT THROUGH HIS HEAD... AND EVERYTHING WENT BLACK!

WHEN VINCENT CAME TO, HE WAS UP TO HIS NECK IN SAND AND THERE WAS A GAG IN HIS MOUTH...

HOW DO YOU FEEL, VINCENT? SORT OF HELPLESS, EH? THAT WAS A NASTY STUNT... HITTING YOU IN THE HEAD... THEN BURYING YOU IN THE SAND, WASN'T IT?


BUT YOU'LL UNDERSTAND WHEN I INTRODUCE MYSELF! THE NAME IS HAMMOND... GRACE HAMMOND! I SEE THE NAME REGISTERS WITH YOU! YES... DON HAMMOND WAS MY HUSBAND! I DID SOME INQUIRING AND GAVE NICK TWENTY GRAND TO FIND OUT WHO KILLED HIM!

NICK TOLD ME WHERE YOU WERE STAYING... YOU'D SENT HIM A POSTCARD... SO I CAME DOWN TO MEET YOU! THE TIDES ARE COMING IN, VINCENT! IN AN HOUR THE WHOLE BEACH WILL BE COVERED...

THE GIRL DROVE OFF! VINCENT WANTED TO CALL AFTER HER, BUT THERE WAS A GAG IN HIS MOUTH! THE WATER CAME IN HIGHER...

THERE WAS A SIGN ON TOP OF THE SAND DUNE! VINCENT READ IT OVER AND OVER AGAIN AS THE WATER ROSE HIGHER... AND HIGHER... AND HIGHER...

THE SCENE WAS VERY PEACEFUL! THE MOONLIGHT SHONE DOWN ON THE LAKE BILL BOARD, BUT VINCENT NEEDED NO REMINDER! NOW HE WAS HAVING HIS VACATION... HE WAS RELAXING... HE WAS ALL SET UP FOR A LONG LONG REST!

WITH VINCENT VERY MUCH IN THE SWIM OF THINGS, WE FADE OUT OF SIGHT UNTIL THE NEXT SCHEDULED JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY... WHEN WE'LL COME FACE TO FACE WITH "THE HIDDEN VAMPIRES" AND OTHER ASSORTED CREATURES AND CREEPS! BE SEEING YOU!

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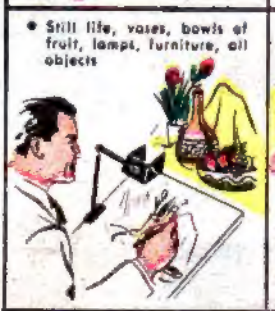

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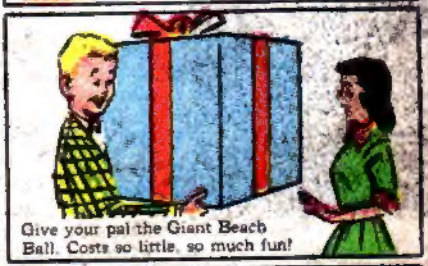

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LIKE a magic wand, the "Spot Reducer" obeys your every wish. Most any part of your body where it is loose and flabby, wherever you have extra weight and inches, the "Spot Reducer" can aid you in acquiring a youthful, slender and graceful figure. The beauty of this scientifically designed Reducer is that the method is so simple and easy, the results quick, sure and harmless. No exercises or strict diets. No steambaths, drugs or laxatives.

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